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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1911.

**HOW TO GET MORE VOTERS.**  
 No matter how the present ordinance may end, public interest in better government will give Richmond better voters and more of them than at any other time since the new Constitution went into effect. For the public at large is now beginning to see clearly that no system of laws or administration can maintain economical, efficient, or even honest government when the vast majority of citizens care too little about municipal affairs to take the trouble to vote.

It is said, and The Times-Dispatch believes it is said with justice, that there are 3,000 young white men in this city who have come of age since the new Constitution went into operation, and who, so far from voting, have not yet even registered.

This deplorable state of affairs is rightly ascribed to the constitutional requirement of the prepayment of the poll tax six months before an election. In many instances the poll taxes have accumulated for several years, and as all poll taxes for the previous three years must be paid before voting, the right to vote may mean the prepayment of \$4.50. It is this large sum—often piled up by neglect—that deters or rather prevents so many young men from voting.

Yet the young white men of Richmond must be made voters, or the whole city and State will suffer. Of all governments, democracies are least able to carry drones. The very foundation of popular government is the participation of all the potential voters in the selection of officials.

The difficulty is plain enough, but it is idle to talk of abolishing the poll tax requirements. The southside and the public schools—one to preserve white rule and the other to keep its much needed revenues—would not countenance that change. For better or worse, we must keep the poll tax without losing the influence and interest of those who should vote. This can be done. In the country districts, where the tax collectors present the tax bills in person, young men have their attention called to the tax bill, and an easy opportunity for payment is offered. It is not so in the cities. Take Richmond, for example. Here the tax bill is mailed out and promptly pigeonholed. The young voter may look it up or let it alone. The latter course is, unfortunately, the one most often pursued. There are, few public levies that citizens make haste to pay—and the poll tax is not one of them. Indifference follows inattention, and the result is not only a small registered vote, but a large population in our city lacking interest in civic duties.

The remedy is for every employer, for every labor union, for every civil and religious organization, to require qualification for voting from every member, employee or beneficiary. If the great manufacturers, the churches, the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Men's Club, the T. P. A. and the labor unions and lodges made citizenship a standard, every being within the boundaries of Richmond would feel the quickening thrill of better government because of better citizenship.

**A CALL FOR THE GOODS.**  
 The reply in the German Reichstag of Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg to Sir Edward Grey's response to German Foreign Minister von Kiderlen-Waechter's somewhat irritating and chauvinistic address, was equally as conciliatory in tone as were the remarks of the British foreign secretary. The German chancellor met Sir Edward more than half way in expressing a desire for betterment of the relations between the two nations. He hailed with great satisfaction the British foreign secretary's recognition that Germany's growing strength covers no aggressive plans, and declared Germany's earnest wish not only for peace and friendship with Great Britain, but for an understanding that would tend to keep the world's peace. However, in explaining his phrase, "a clean slate," used in his address in which he claimed, for home consumption, that Germany had achieved a triumph in the Franco-German settlement of the Moroccan question, and which had reference to the German negotiations with Great Britain growing out of that issue, the chancellor said: "But in the recent past the slate has been written on with a hard pencil, leaving permanent scratches that cannot be written over in the future, if suspicion welds the pencil." Then he intimated that the only way Great Britain could prove her words and incur the obliteration of the scratches was by deeds, and by the avoidance of throwing in the way of German commercial expansion obstacles that indicated suspicion of covert purpose to interfere with British interest, territorial or other.

The chancellor's observations along this line were entirely legitimate, and have been construed to have special bearing on British attempts to block

the extension of Germany's sphere of influence in Asia Minor and the completion of the Bagdad Railway, under German control. Free hand to Germany here would place her in a position to have a most important say both at Constantinople and in Persian affairs, and afford her a valuable strategic colga of vantage against Russia in any further effort of the latter to press southward.

When all is said and done, Von Bethmann Hollweg has shrewdly taken advantage of a most propitious opportunity to call upon Great Britain to vindicate Sir Edward's protestations and assurances by delivering a substantial and practical token of friendship in the shape of the goods. It will be interesting to see how Great Britain will comply both in the matter of Asia Minor and the Bagdad Railway, and some other concessions Germany covets in the neighborhood of British preserves or intended preserves.

**WASTING \$13,000 YEARLY.**  
 Rockingham is one of the largest counties in the State—it is also one of the most uneconomical and wasteful in the matter of its public finance. The Harrisonburg News, which is usually correct in its estimate of men and matters, declares that \$13,000 is annually wasted by Rockingham county in the amounts received by three county officers under the pernicious and outrageous working of the fee system.

In a table below are the figures given by the News. They are the estimated compensations of the three county officers. As the News pertinently says, "under the fee system, the best we can do is to estimate." Nobody knows what the fee officers get and they won't tell because they know that if they did, the people would be amazed and would be up in arms. However, the amounts given below have never been disputed and are substantially correct:

	Estimated	Present	Reasonable
County treasurer .....	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
County clerk .....	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Sh. riffs office .....	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
	\$21,900	\$5,000	\$5,000

There you have a difference of \$13,000 between what is and what should be. The proposed salaries are reasonable and fair. There is no reason in the world why two officeholders, unknown outside of Rockingham county should each get a higher compensation than Governor Mann or President Keith, of the Court of Appeals, or other State officers of importance, dignity and of great responsibilities and duties. The people of Rockingham are greatly disturbed, we are told, over the increased taxes which they are called upon to pay this year. No wonder, when public money is wasted openly and under color of law as it is in Rockingham.

The News makes the excellent suggestion that Senator-Elect Paul and Delegates-Elect Rolston and Earman, of Rockingham, take up the matter of reform of the fee system at the session of the General Assembly which begins next month. "Let's begin training together, and we will beat down and overrun the breastwork of Taft, Wall Street and tariff oppressions," says the Rockingham Record, which would do well to brush off its own doorstep instead before it tackles the nation's. Economy and reform should begin at home; the Record should imitate the News and insist upon tax reduction at home through the elimination of the fee system, instead of trying to shoot bears with an air rifle.

**STICK TO THE REAL ISSUES.**  
 In the discussion of the proposed plan for a better form of government for Richmond, lately there has been a tendency to wander from the main track to some side line or other. Let us stop straying off on the spur, and remember what we are after. Let us stick to the essentials and avoid the incidentals.

"What are we trying to get? A redistribution of the city into four wards in order to reduce the size of the Council, and an administrative board that will carry on the business of the city promptly and efficiently.

Those two things are what we are after. They are the main things. Other features are subsidiary and of lesser importance to the people. The issue should be sharply drawn Tuesday night. Those who offer petty amendments will but becloud the issue. Those who are not for the plan are against it. Those who will try to insert trifling amendments will only attempt to dodge the real issue.

The issue is clear-cut and as plain as day. It cannot be evaded. The people will remember at the polls next spring those who may try to becloud the issue and prevent a consideration of the main question.

There must be no jockeying and juggling with this plan. It must be adopted now; delay will not only hurt the interests of the city, but will likewise work to the emasculation of the entire plan.

Don't get off on a tangent. Remember that there are two things the people want. Let's get together and stay together. Instead of running off after new and strange amendments.

Remember the issue. Stick to it. Work for the whole ordinance as it came from the Common Council. Accept no alterations—stay put. Stand pat.

**OUR PROGRESSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**  
 "Virginia Reclaiming Her Public Schools From Political Use" is the heading of an excellent article published last week in the Christian Science Monitor, reviewing the progress of our public schools for the last

five years. The writer, whose name is not given, thus prefaces his article:

"Nothing better indicates the true progress of a community or State in elevating its standard of citizenship than the interest, individual and collective, taken in free public instruction. This interest may be expressed in a willingness to pay increased taxes and to contribute to subscriptions for defraying the cost of improving the public schools; or, in the support of local schools in improvement leagues."

To estimate correctly the depth of this interest, past and present conditions must be compared. "Particularly is this true of the South, which, following the Civil War, has in the last decade experienced a most remarkable awakening along many lines."

The article goes on to point out that the public school system of Virginia was established in the 70's, and for a few years was ably managed. Becoming regarded as a political asset, however, it made practically no advance in the subsequent quarter of a century. Early in this century, therefore, especially in the country districts, there were school buildings built with no regard for proper light, heat, sanitation or comfort; with unqualified teachers "occupying a majority of the positions," many of them lacking even a high school education; with local officials selecting teachers when the former could not answer the questions they themselves put; with short school terms, and "with a system almost wholly devoid of modern methods of teaching."

Five years ago Virginia was spending a little more than \$2,000,000 annually on her schools. To-day she is using \$4,500,000. A little more than 46 per cent. of her total revenue. Two years ago Virginia had one State normal school for women. To-day she has three, each with a capacity of 1,000 students, and she will have another one next year, if there isn't some rotten politics. In addition to this, normal departments have been created and put into operation in twenty high schools.

Six years ago the State possessed seventy-four high schools. A year ago she had 104, mainly in the country districts.

The improvements in country schools are "most important," for more than 50 per cent. of the population is outside of cities and incorporated towns. The policy now obtaining is to consolidate several small schools into one building of a number of rooms. This brings about the grading of the schools, better facilities, debating societies, libraries and general equipment. The pupils are transported in wagons. Four years ago sixteen wagons were used, but now there are more than 200. The consolidation policy "reduces the number of buildings needed, but not the number of schools," yet in 1910 216 new buildings were erected at a cost of \$651,145, and during the last five years about 400 new buildings have been put up.

The design of these buildings is absolutely modern. They are modeled largely after those of Massachusetts, the school system of that State being among the best in the country. Most of the plans have been made by a single firm of architects, who specialize in school buildings. Virginia has a fund invested in sound securities, from the income of which money is lent to assist in building new schools, and this plan is resulting in the building of many schools which could not otherwise be built. "Generous private donations are also common, the people taking pride in the handsome buildings, which are sometimes the only public auditoriums in a community available for citizens' meetings."

A great number of districts have raised their rate of school taxation to the legal maximum. The necessity for better qualified teachers has raised salaries, and there is healthy competition for positions. The average of monthly salaries paid white men teachers last year was \$51.51, and white women teachers \$36.55. The

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

## Merchants National Bank

AT RICHMOND, IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, DECEMBER 5, 1911.

Resources.	
Loans and discounts.....	\$5,371,134.11
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured.....	265.57
United States bonds to secure circulation.....	200,000.00
United States bonds to secure United States deposits.....	15,000.00
Other bonds to secure United States deposits.....	95,000.00
Rents, securities, etc.....	578,430.95
Other real estate, furniture and fixtures.....	125,000.00
Due from national banks (not reserve agents).....	101.72
Due from State and private banks and bankers, trust companies and savings banks.....	241,546.67
Due from approved reserve agents.....	52,635.64
Checks and other cash items.....	5,941.71
Exchange for clearing house.....	82,867.32
Practical paper currency, checks and cents.....	62,200.00
Lawful money reserve in bank, viz:.....	3,493.64
Specie.....	53,609.60
Legal tender notes.....	367,600.00
Cash and due from banks.....	2,002,091.30
Redemption fund with United States Treasurer (5% of circulation).....	10,000.00
Total.....	\$8,457,324.01
Liabilities.	
Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus fund.....	800,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid.....	205,000.00
National bank notes outstanding.....	190,100.00
Due to State and private banks and bankers.....	\$1,072,950.71
Due to trust companies and savings banks.....	1,121,666.90
Due to approved reserve agents.....	121,026.56
Deposits subject to check.....	3,811,410.55
Certified checks.....	221,833.72
Cashier's checks outstanding.....	2,804.86
United States deposits.....	192,325.21
Deposits of United States disbursing officers.....	8,879.26
Deposits.....	6,883,509.65
Reserve for interest.....	118,250.00
Total.....	\$8,457,324.01

States of Virginia, City of Richmond, ss:  
 I, Thos. B. McAdams, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

THOS. B. McADAMS, Cashier.  
 Corrected-Attest: JAMES CASKIE,  
 M. C. HIXSON,  
 MILTON E. MARCUSE,  
 Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1911.

GEO. E. VANDERBRICE, Notary Public.

**SAFEST FOR SAVINGS.**

length of terms shows an increase from 130.7 days to 140.3 days.

The writer in the Monitor goes on to say something about a matter which has been agitated in Richmond:

"A movement is now on foot in the city of Richmond to provide free text books for all pupils. This proposition has had a thorough test in Massachusetts, and has been in successful operation for thirty years. It constitutes a further application of the same principle which underlies free buildings, free teachers and free supervision, and is said to place the capstone on free education. There is no danger in this paternalism, it is pointed out, because it does not involve any mootpoint where official action may arbitrarily infringe on the natural and inherent rights of parents and guardians."

As the Monitor says, this steady and substantial improvement is only a beginning. Much has been done, but much remains to be done. A still higher standing is the goal. "The present State Superintendent of Schools, J. D. Eggleston, Jr., is a man of energy, who is thoroughly interested in his work, and with a continuation of the public sentiment the result is certain to be far-reaching."

**A VERY PRETTY QUARREL.**

By order of court, Dr. Carrington is surgeon to the penitentiary; by act of Superintendent Wood, Dr. Carrington cannot get inside the walls—and there you are! The quarrel is very pretty as it stands, without need of advice from onlookers. But it may be recalled that once, when the great Chief Justice gave an injunction against the State of Georgia, Andrew Jackson, who was then President, said, "Johnny Marshall has given his decision; now let's see him enforce it!"

Will the Circuit Court for the county of Henrico send constables to act as assistants to the walled-out surgeon?

New York society note—Colonel Bill Skillitt, of Richmond, is registered tonight at the Ritz-Carlton. He has his dress suit on.

A Pennsylvania man, on trial for murder, pleads that he mistook his wife for a burglar and shot her. He ought to have stayed at home at least long enough to be able to tell his wife from a second-story man.

A Michigan millionaire "rooted" himself to death at a football game the other day, but we are reliably informed that he was not rooting for the University of North Carolina.

Pay that poll tax to-day.

## Voice of the People

**What One Firm Is Doing.**  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir,—I am inclosing you copy of letter that I am sending out for our firm to all of the Board of Aldermen, and I believe that if in your efforts to assist the movement for four wards and an administrative board, you would advise business firms in addition to talking to the Aldermen to send letters somewhat on the same lines as the one I am inclosing to each Alderman, it might help to get them to understand that on this particular occasion the people "want what they want when they want it."

T. PEYTON GILES.

December 7.

(Copy.)  
 Dear Sir,—Excluding twelve or fifteen younger men, we have at this plant forty-five men, besides a few of our road salesmen, all above the voting age, all residents of Richmond and most of whom are qualified voters, or will be at the next election. Their opinion seems to be unanimous that the interest of the city would be best served by having only four wards and an administrative board, rather than by our present method of transacting the city's business.

All of these men are certainly possessed of full average intelligence, and many of them are far above the average. None of them are interested personally or financially in city affairs except as taxpayers and earnest workers for what they believe to be the best interests of Richmond. It would seem to us that the above typical unanimity of opinion is well worth your serious consideration, and we trust you can agree with us and

give your conscientious support and vote to these measures.  
 Yours very truly,  
 STEPHEN PUTNEY SHOE CO.  
 T. PEYTON GILES,  
 Vice-President.

December 7.

**The Chain Gang.**  
 Along the street they trudge, a weary, staggering way,  
 The prison wall on each sullen face, hard set;  
 Some laugh—a mirthless sound of pain and deep dismay;  
 Each one some mother's son.

We wonder why that grizzled man met such a fate?  
 Why that square-shouldered boy with joyless eyes  
 Was led astray? If yet his conscience wakes too late?  
 Each one some mother's son.

Their chains clank harshly 'tis as the sound of hell!  
 And fetters on the souls of men torment;  
 But some feel not (such souls are lost) their funeral knell.  
 Each one some mother's son.

Pity you give to human weakness when Hope dies!

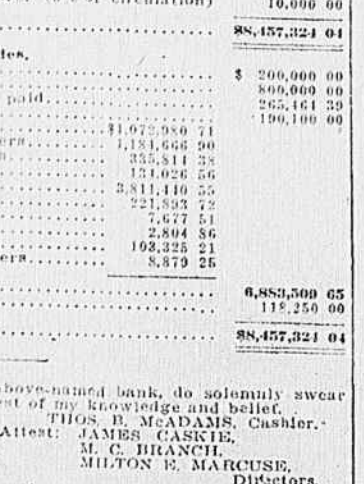
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 EDMOND FONTAINE.  
 Lynchburg, 1909.

## La Marquise de Fontenoy

W HILE every right-minded man, especially those of the English-speaking race, must admire the energy, the pluck, and the unbending integrity with which Morgan Shuster is playing a hand at Teheran, which has won for his countrymen here a reputation for courage and square dealing that extends far beyond the borders of Persia, and indeed throughout the Orient, it must be a source of regret that the good work which he has already accomplished, and the possibilities of his great usefulness to Persia in the future, have been endangered, if not entirely destroyed by his lack of tact and of diplomacy. More than this, his deficiencies in these two particular qualities seem likely to cost Persia the last remaining vestiges of her independence, and to reduce the former empire of the so-called King of

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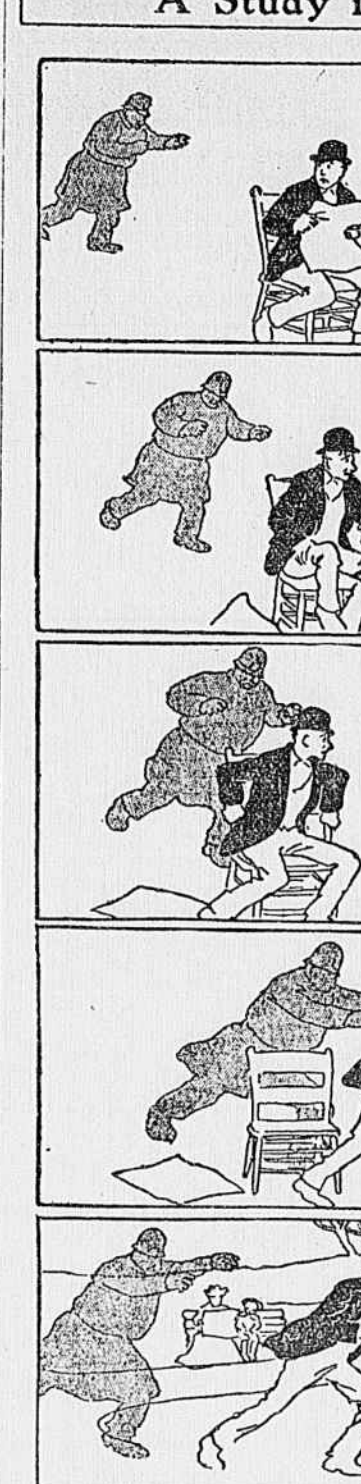
POOR TRUST IS DEAD



Lafe Bud has applied for a pension. He was in the Boer war at St. Louis. Miss Tawney Apple started to visit her aunt 't day but she forgot 't have it put in the paper, so she didn't go.

## A Study in Conscience—The Murderer

(Copyright, 1911, by John T. McO'Donogh.)



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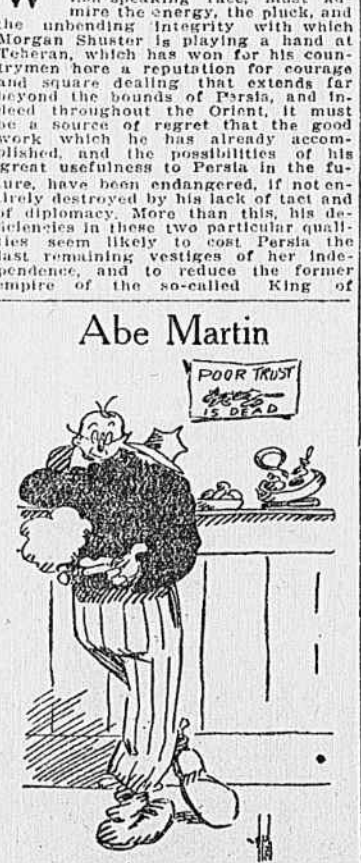
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**MAKE THIS BANK YOUR BANK**

Kings to the fate of ordinary Russian and British Oriental protectors. Morgan Shuster, in taking up his duties as treasurer-general at Teheran, within a few weeks only after his appointment, and without having sufficiently studied the Persian situation, it would take long months, combined with a thorough knowledge of the language and character of the people to master, did not appreciate the fact that one-half of Persia was under Muscovite protection, and the other moiety under the protection of England. It was in fact thanks to those two great European powers, that Persia was indebted for the continuance of her national existence, instead of being reduced to anarchy and chaotic tribal warfare.

He made the mistake of ignoring the existence of these two protectorates, which, while burdening the protecting powers with certain responsibilities, likewise endowed them with a completely independent nation, and at the same time gave them a claim to special consideration, as well as a voice in the methods of administration. He chose to regard Persia as a completely independent nation, and that he was no more bound to consider the recommendations of England and Russia than those of France, Germany or the United States. He absolutely denied the pretensions of Russia and Great Britain to be treated as completely independent nations, and their position as such had never been sanctioned by the national legislature of Persia, although that legislature was induced for its existence to the intervention of the two powers concerned with the former Shah.

Naturally this has been bitterly resented by Russia, whose officials in Asia are somewhat heavier handed and less patient than their British colleagues, quicker, indeed, to punish anything that they look upon as oriental insolence. And when, to cap matters, he took upon himself to appoint Englishmen, instead of Russians, to inspectors of revenues and taxes in the Russian sphere of Persia, and Englishmen, moreover, who were disloyal to the British legation at Teheran and to the British government, turning a deaf ear to all the English envoy's remonstrances and recommendations to show more tact and conciliation in his dealings with Russia, the situation became untenable.

Americans naturally take pride in the courage displayed by young Shuster, whom they somewhat mistakenly regard as representing their national interests in Persia. The English government realizes this, and in consequence thereof has endeavored as far as possible to smooth over matters, but it has found it impossible to bring about an understanding, and now that the Russian troops have reached Teheran, it means that either Persia will go out of existence as an independent nation, being divided up between Russia and England, or else that she will be obliged to get rid of Shuster, and to submit to much more foreign interference than hitherto.

In one word, Shuster, who seemed destined to bring about, no more the reorganization of the Persian government administration, but also the regeneration of the Persian nation, has wrecked his own mission, as well as most of the remaining vestiges of the national independence of Persia, by his lack of tact and his excess of zeal.

The great Talleyrand used constantly to impress upon those of his diplomatic subordinates in Europe that too much zeal was dangerous. "Sur tout pas trop de zele." He might have added that in dealing with Oriental extremes tact and perfect understanding of the peculiar local conditions are equally indispensable.

Last Sunday's cables, in recording the purchase in London by Thomas J. Barrett, of the log-book of Admiral Lord Nelson, omitted to mention that he is the maker of one of the most popular songs on the international market. The reports did state that he had purchased some of the most famous masterpieces of modern painting, notably Sir John Millais' "Bubbles," which latter he turned to extraordinarily valuable account in reproduction to advertise his soap. Nelson's log-book will not, however, be devoted to any such commercial purposes, although its possibilities in the way of advertisement are unique. If he has bought it, it is from purely patriotic motives, and in order to prevent its being sold for exportation, either to the United States, or to Germany.

The danger of the latter possibility, excites the indignation of the English people, who hold that the log-book of England's greatest naval hero should never have been permitted by the government to be placed on the market, to this he is a disgrace, that a private citizen should have been compelled to step forward, and to open his purse, in order to prevent the relic falling into foreign hands.

The Khedive's mother, who is a Turkish princess, has accepted the presidency of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, which, a counterpart of the European and American Red Cross organizations, has dispatched several fully equipped field hospitals to Tripoli, with an abundance of stores, medicines and supplies, and a very large staff of surgeons and of hospital orderlies. Some of these field hospitals have been dispatched overland, by the Khedive's private railroad, which extends from Alexandria, westwards, up to a point within forty miles from the Tripolitan frontier. Others have been dispatched across the desert further south, while some again have reached Tripoli by sea. The result of this is that the Turkish and Arab forces facing the Italians in Tripoli, are quite as richly equipped in a medical and surgical way as the Italian army of occupation.

Money has poured into the dowager Khedive's Red Crescent fund, like water. Pushes, boys and village magistrates contributing generously, and even the Fellahs adding their hard earned mite. Several of the princes of the Khedive's family by means of the Khedive's private railroad, referred to above. It is known that Enver Pasha, the Young Turk leader, reached the Turkish camp in Tripoli in that fashion. But as the railroad is an absolutely private concern of the Khedive, built on his own land, and purposes that are alleged to be purely agricultural, the British authorities have no means of exercising any effective control over its traffic.

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